

The University of Massachusetts

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

to the Board of Trustees, the Governor, and Citizens
of the Commonwealth

JANUARY, 1948 TO JANUARY, 1949



*The State University
Builds for the Future*

The Honorable Joseph W. Bartlett
Chairman, Board of Trustees
The University of Massachusetts

Sir:

I have the honor to present through you to the Board of Trustees for transmission to the Governor of the Commonwealth the annual report of the University of Massachusetts for the year ending January 1, 1949.

Respectfully submitted,

RALPH A. VAN METER, *President*

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The State University Builds for the Future

Report of the President

The most significant development of the past year for the University of Massachusetts has been the continued growth of enrollment and the continued expansion of facilities that are bringing the State university closer to meeting the permanent needs of the people of the Commonwealth.

Since the expansion of the University started in 1946, our central efforts have been directed to the sound planning of classrooms, dormitories and other facilities to meet both the emergency needs of the veterans and the long-range needs of qualified Massachusetts youth for higher education.

During the past year much progress has been made toward our goal of developing a well-balanced university. Notable developments of the year have been the establishment of a School of Engineering and a School of Business Administration, and the completion of the first permanent buildings in our development program.

Our growth in these post-war years has been rapid. Our highest pre-war undergraduate enrollment was 1261 in 1940-41, when we had a total enrollment of 1670. By stretching our facilities to the limit we were able to accommodate a total of 2026 on the Amherst campus in 1946-47.

In September 1948, we had increased to a total of 3245 students at Amherst, plus another 813 at Fort Devens. When the second semester opens in February 1949, we shall have approximately 3400 students on the permanent campus and 600 at Fort Devens. And by next September we shall have 4000 on the Amherst campus—double the enrollment of only three years ago.

This growth is all the more remarkable if it is remembered that in 1946-47, when we had 2026 students, we were stretched to the limit of our facilities. The slow growth of the school and the steady increase in enrollment prior to the war did not keep pace in those years with the increasing demands for

admission. Throughout the 1930's we were forced to turn away many qualified youths who could not afford to attend privately-endowed colleges, or find at them courses available here.

On page 16 of this report is a summary of the new buildings constructed on our campus in the last 20 years. It may be noted that from 1929 to 1946, depression and war years, only five major buildings were completed—two dormitories financed by private funds, one dormitory and a library financed by State and Federal funds, and a physical education building financed by Alumni gifts of \$115,000 and a State appropriation of \$172,500. It is obvious that at this pace facilities could not keep abreast of enrollment pressures from young men and women of this State. The University accepted as many qualified students as its facilities permitted while maintaining the high educational standards to which these youths were entitled.

For 15 years we have had to limit enrollment, more drastically after 1935 than earlier. To a large extent the depression and the war were responsible for the fact that the State did not authorize funds for any major buildings to be built solely with State funds from 1929 to 1946. In these 16 years the State contributed \$431,970 to new major buildings while the Federal government contributed \$172,980 and private funds contributed \$524,600. Not only did our building facilities lag behind enrollment demands, but we were in no position to handle the record enrollments in Massachusetts of the post-war years.

In short, it was inevitable that the tremendous post-war increase in the demand for higher education in 1946 should have found our Commonwealth, like other states, unprepared.

The achievement of handling both the emergency needs of veterans and the neglected needs of Massachusetts youth has been the result of a combined operation—a State, Federal and Alumni building program that began in 1946. Emergency Federal and State buildings, combined with permanent State and Alumni buildings, have made it possible for the University to do the difficult job of meeting the post-war enrollment emergency while building soundly for the future.

Fundamental to the success of this combined operation has been the sustained support of the Legislature since 1946. Without it the University could not have done the job, be-

cause of the years of inadequate development and the size of the undertaking.

In 1946 the Legislature wisely created the temporary branch at Fort Devens and authorized three permanent buildings on the Amherst campus costing a total of more than \$1,500,000. This was the first authorization for major buildings to be erected solely with State funds since the erection of the \$70,000 food technology laboratory in 1929.

Support of the State university in meeting the needs of qualified Massachusetts youth for education within their financial reach has never been a partisan question in our Legislature. In 1946 and 1947 and during the past year, the University has had the full cooperation of both the State Administration and the Legislature. The bi-partisan expansion program was started in 1946. It was continued in 1947 when the Legislature authorized additional permanent buildings and equipment costing \$1,228,500 and voted university status for what was then Massachusetts State College. In 1948 the Legislature authorized \$3,735,500 for new construction, including \$1,361,000 for our central power plant development and \$1,500,000 for self-liquidating housing.

Citizens of Massachusetts have reason to be proud of this bi-partisan support, and the record of the General Court since 1946. The University's growth is now beginning to make up for the understandable neglect of the depression and war years.

In 1948 the Legislature also increased faculty salaries to take care of increased living costs and to prevent loss of the State University teachers to other institutions. To handle the greatly increased teaching loads 58 teachers were added during the past year.

The achievement of meeting the emergency needs of veterans and the neglected needs of Massachusetts youth has not been done without overcrowding of students and overloading of faculty members. A typical example is that two of the dormitories built by the Alumni Building Corporation in 1947 for a normal capacity of 300 students have accommodated 538 men during the past semester. At present 32 married students are living in trailers on the campus. Several more students and faculty families are living in Federal housing at Amherst College through the generosity of our neighboring institution.

During the past year the University has been engaged, as one faculty member remarked recently, in waging an academic battle of the bulge. The bulge is the overcrowding—and it will be a temporary campaign, for we could not operate long under the present crowded conditions in our dining halls, dormitories, classrooms and laboratories. But there is every indication that with continued cooperation of the Legislature the University will be able to complete our post-war development program.

There are strong indications that the University will continue to be taxed to the limit of its facilities for many years. Recently, the American Council on Education reported that while veterans' enrollment in American colleges is 100,000 below last year's enrollment the total college enrollment is up 3.1%. That is, permanent civilian demand has more than replaced the veterans' demand, as was to be expected. There is every reason to expect that future demand will increase steadily as more and more boys and girls from low and moderate income families seek the advantages of higher education.

We have been building for the future in the past few years. We can look forward to the time in about five years when we can assume the full responsibilities of the State university in adequate service to the Commonwealth.

I do not believe that the State's educational needs will absorb an unreasonable proportion of the State's budget. Our operating budget is about 1.5% of the State budget, while comparable figures recently assembled on New England Land-Grant Universities run from 2.2% in Connecticut to 9% in Maine and New Hampshire. Education is not cheap. But in our State, where the skill of its people is its greatest resource, there is no better investment than the education of its youth.

BUILDING PROGRAM

The combined building operation of the State, Federal government and Alumni Building Corporation since 1946 has been an interesting chapter in Massachusetts educational history, and I should like to trace it briefly in this section of my report.

When the great pressure for admission started in 1946, we were given real and almost immediate help by the Federal

government. The Federal Public Housing Authority moved in 18 small surplus dormitory and apartment buildings, and erected them for temporary use. They have been of inestimable value.

These temporary buildings are of light construction and will not last much longer, but they have been used constantly at capacity since they were erected. They are providing living quarters today for 90 veterans' families and 231 single students. We hope we can make them last through another winter.

In 1947, before there was time for the State to build needed classroom buildings, the Federal government came to our assistance again by moving in and erecting four large wooden surplus buildings. One burned before we could move into it. The other three have supplied indispensable classrooms and science laboratories and a temporary dining hall annex. Altogether these Federal buildings were valued at \$600,000.

In 1946 the State authorized three permanent buildings, and the setting up of a temporary branch at Fort Devens to provide the first two years of college training. The permanent buildings were a physics, a home economics and an animal pathology building. Rising construction costs subsequently required the transfer of reserve funds, through the cooperation of the Governor and Council and the Massachusetts Public Building Commission, to provide the needed additional funds.

During the past year we have occupied the \$643,750 home economics building. Not only has this been of vital aid to our School of Home Economics, but it has released room at many points on the campus. The \$518,000 physics building, which was re-authorized along with the animal pathology laboratory in 1947, will be completed next semester, and will be of great help in handling the record enrollment of 4000 in the coming year.

In 1947 the Legislature authorized an engineering laboratory building, Gunness Laboratory. This \$424,000 building was started in April, 1948, and is almost completed. It will provide permanent laboratory space for mechanical engineering. We have already occupied another building, the engineering annex, built under a \$120,000 emergency appropriation made early in 1948 to replace the wooden Federal surplus

building that burned.

In 1947 the State also provided crucial aid to meet the housing emergency. Three cement-block dormitories were authorized costing \$522,000. During the past semester single students have occupied two of them, while the third, an apartment-type building, is now housing 30 student families. Two more such state-financed buildings, authorized in 1948, will be ready in a matter of days. All five of these buildings were made of cement blocks, rather than brick, to save time in construction. When we can eliminate crowding in them, they will be reasonably satisfactory and comfortable.

The alumni contribution to this combined building operation has been made through the non-profit Alumni Building Corporation authorized by the Legislature. In 1946 this agency began work on two self-liquidating dormitories, Chadbourne and Greenough Houses, where 538 men are now housed. Costing \$550,000 these were the third and fourth alumni dormitories to be built since 1939.

Mills House, the fifth of the Alumni Building Corporation's dormitories, was authorized in 1946, and will be ready during the next semester. With the two new cement-block dormitories it will help greatly in relieving the crowding in dormitories for men.

Next summer we shall close the University at Fort Devens and make it possible for these last 600 men to complete their college experience on the established campus in Amherst. To accommodate them, the Alumni Corporation has the foundations built for three more dormitories which we shall need urgently next September.

Two of these are in the area set aside for dormitories for women. We shall use them for men until the largest classes of veterans are graduated, then add them to our housing facilities for women. We have housing on campus for only 400 women students. Sororities and commuters bring the total to about 600—the limit until more living accommodations can be made available for women. The needs of qualified women for low-cost higher education, and the resulting pressure for admission, are even more serious than with men in Massachusetts. We should look forward to a total enrollment of at least 1000 women very soon.

With the completion of the eight dormitories, and a small

faculty apartment building that is urgently needed, the Alumni Building Corporation will have invested a total of \$2,859,600 of private funds on the State university campus since 1939. These buildings will become the property of the State without cost to the taxpayers.

During the past year the State authorized a new power plant and the first half of a main engineering building. Plans have been completed for these projects, along with plans for the animal pathology laboratory and a field station building at Waltham. All are needed by the Commonwealth, and the contracts are expected to be let within the next several weeks.

Since 1946 the State has authorized a total of \$5,143,750 for new buildings to be erected and equipped solely with State funds on the State university campus. This has been the key factor in the combined building operation that has made it possible for the State university to meet the emergency needs of veterans while building for the future needs of the Commonwealth.

BUILDING NEEDS

Students at the University are still in great need of an additional dining hall. We are accommodating about 1400 persons in our dining rooms and that has proved to be the limit. The dining halls have been crowded but we hoped we could accommodate several hundred more students this year by adopting mass feeding methods on trays and by extending the hours. We still serve about 1400 at the dining halls. Students will not crowd in beyond that number, and two thousand students are eating elsewhere.

Fraternities and sororities accommodate 500 or 600. The only visible accommodations for the rest are one small restaurant and two dining cars near the campus. A few go down town—a mile away—especially for dinner in the evening, but hundreds of students skip meals or try to board themselves. The situation is undesirable, and dangerous from a health standpoint. That is why we asked last year, and are asking again this year, for a new dining hall large enough to accommodate at least 1000 students.

With one new engineering laboratory in use and another nearly finished we still have an acute problem in providing classrooms and laboratories for that school. The engineering departments here have grown very rapidly and now have an

enrollment of 405 students on the Amherst campus alone. The fire of last January destroyed 22,000 square feet of floor space for engineering and \$100,000 worth of equipment, interfering seriously with our laboratory program in electrical engineering.

The Engineering Shop, built in 1916 for instruction in agricultural engineering, has been crowded to include laboratory work in electrical machinery and materials testing. At times there are 8 classes in session in the shop at once. Engineering classes are now conducted in 14 buildings on the campus.

The first half of the main engineering building authorized in 1948 will be largely devoted to electrical engineering and metallurgical laboratories. We are asking for the second half of this building in the present budget to provide class and drafting rooms and four additional engineering laboratories. These are necessary to a minimum program and are not provided for in other units.

The expansion in enrollment during the past year has been largely at the junior-senior level as students were transferred from Fort Devens to Amherst. We have absorbed them for the most part into courses already established and it has not been necessary to set up many highly specialized laboratories like those in engineering.

Rather, the problem has been one of providing dormitory space, and general classrooms and teachers for more students. Throughout the period we have held freshman enrollments to about 400 each year. The expansion in freshman and sophomore facilities has been taken care of at Fort Devens.

As the veterans are graduated, we can increase our freshman-sophomore numbers to bring the four classes into balance. In two years we should be ready to admit 800 freshmen. Most of the problems involved will merge with the general problem of providing classroom space; but where laboratories are involved for large numbers of freshman and sophomore students, we must build again for specific purposes.

All students must take certain courses in science. That is why we are asking for funds this year to double the size of the chemistry facilities in Goessmann Laboratory, and also the biology laboratories in Clark Hall. These laboratories are overcrowded now. When we double the number of stu-

dents taking courses in them, we must make more room.

Under Chapter 599 of the Acts of 1947 the Trustees are instructed to build a Public Health Center on the campus. The Federal Government will contribute one-third of the cost. This building will house the district health office serving Central and Western Massachusetts. The University will use it as a teaching center for public health personnel. This building will free space for larger zoology laboratories which are under the same pressure as the laboratories in the chemistry building and Clark Hall. We believe that the time has come when this building should be built and we are asking the Legislature to finance it this year.

We are asking for funds to increase the size of the library also. Our library was built by State and Federal funds in 1935, when we had an undergraduate enrollment of 1069. We have a beautiful library but it is inadequate for the present and future student body. The library is the very heart of the University and we must make it possible for many more students to use the library at one time. Fortunately, this modern building was so constructed that it can be enlarged readily.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

The closing in June of the University at Fort Devens will bring to an end an interesting, useful, and successful venture in higher education under emergency conditions. Without it the University could not have met the needs of Massachusetts veterans for college training. These veterans have continued to maintain high standards of scholarship and responsibility.

There is every indication that continuing pressure for admissions will keep enrollment at a high level in the next few years. A larger percentage of high school graduates than ever before seek entrance to college. As early as April of last year we had received more than 2000 applications for admission from Massachusetts boys and girls and nearly 5000 more requests for application blanks.

More than 40,000 boys and girls were graduated from approximately 400 public and private high schools in Massachusetts last June. Admitting 400 freshmen each year we could average only one student from each secondary school. We expect soon to be able to average two students but there will still be large numbers not provided for anywhere.

Experience in other states over a long period has shown that large numbers of high school graduates who wish more education can be accommodated satisfactorily in local or community colleges offering two-year programs. Only about 20% ,or one in five, have gone on to four years of college and the baccalaureate degree.

To make sure that this 20% can continue their education, the curriculum of the community college should provide a route which will make possible the transfer of a few students to other colleges and universities for junior and senior courses. Aside from that, the courses should be considered terminal. They should be adjusted closely to the needs of the community for general education and semi-professional or purely vocational instruction. Community colleges should also be centers for adult education and such industrial extension work as may be developed.

Even more than other parts of the public school system, the community college should be geared very closely into local industries, services, and institutions. Control should be vested in a local board of trustees with a minimum of outside interference. Since a community college could be maintained in a large center of population only, it should not look to the State for heavy financial subsidies with attendant loss of local interest and loss of local control over a local problem.

The proposal has been made that all developments in this direction be made a part of the University. The State university might be able to administer them as well as any outside authority, but there is too much to lose and too little to gain to put our institutions into lock step under the control of those, who, however able and well meaning, are far removed from the places where problems originate and where they must be solved.

There are now 13 private "junior" colleges in Massachusetts and 5 public institutions in that field. The Commonwealth is organizing an experimental community college at Fitchburg and doubtless there will be an expansion of such facilities as the right form of organization appears.

The University should prepare to accept substantial numbers of transfers coming in as juniors from two-year colleges. This does not mean that these colleges must be a part of the University, any more than are the high schools. Controls

are simple and automatic: when graduates cannot transfer with full credit the courses are weak, and local pride and local pressures will bring them into line.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

The union of the School of Science and the School of Liberal Arts to form a College of Arts and Sciences awaits final approval by the Trustees and the creation of a position to permit the appointment of a dean of the new College. This College of Arts and Sciences should form the center around which the professional schools are organized. All students will enroll in this College for courses in general education and basic pre-professional sciences, in preparation for the more intensive and specialized work to follow. The program of these first two years will be characterized by breadth and range.

Bringing the schools together will make possible a better integration of courses and a better coordination in our long-established core curriculum. It should strengthen our whole organization and I hope we can effect the combination before next September.

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

The demand for graduate courses has grown steadily, especially in the sciences. The organized, tested and coordinated information which we call Science has become so extensive that professional competence in almost any field requires more than the ordinary four years of study at college level. This demand may be expected to increase and the University should meet it as a service to graduate education and also for its effect on all other teaching. A few good graduate students and a modest research program will do much to stimulate a department toward the development of its full potentialities.

During the past year we have limited our graduate school to 221 students including 26 from foreign nations. This school has continued to maintain the high standards it has had since it was organized as a separate school in 1908.

We cannot expand our graduate school until after the next academic year because of the veteran "bulge" in undergraduate schools, but later we should plan a gradual development which will importantly increase the services of the University to the Commonwealth.

CONTROL OF POLICY

Under the law the University is controlled as to policy by this Board of Trustees, which is responsible to the Governor. The University is operated, in other words, as a department of the Commonwealth. In financial matters the University is closely coordinated with all other state departments, and this control of finances carries with it a great deal of policy control, since policies often involve finances. Policy control of all the other State institutions of education beyond the high school is vested in the Board of Education, and this general form of organization is followed in many states.

Each year bills are presented to the Legislature which would in effect place the University beside the State teachers colleges and technical schools, and coordinate with them. I can see no advantage to anyone in this organization. The University is already correlated closely with all departments in financial matters and an elaborate organization for policy control, eliminating the trustees, could only be a clog on the day-to-day operation of the University.

COOPERATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

A year ago the trustees approved in principle a project looking toward cooperation among the Land-Grant Colleges of New England in the establishment of services of such a nature that one School in a New England land-grant University might well serve all New England. This is a long time project. The start is slow, but it is moving forward.

The New England Governors' Conference became interested last summer in the closer integration of all possible state services, including higher education, and appointed a committee of educators to advise them as to possibilities in the educational field. The Committee suggested that a coordinating group be formed from the trustees of the public institutions involved, since it could move more rapidly and surely than any other organization, and would always be informed as to existing facilities. We await the reaction of the Governors' Conference to that suggestion.

Public opinion seems to be crystallizing into general agreement on what American education should do and who should get it. "For each according to his need; to each according to his ability" has become the ideal of education in this country. The realization of that ideal must be preceded

by a period of development but the direction of that evolution has been charted more clearly than ever before.

This guidepost indicates the direction in which the University should develop. It is the task of the University to provide general education and professional training with high standards to those best able to profit from the instruction, with the emphasis on ability only. We must select as students the most able applicants, we must find more ways to help those who lack funds, and we must give them all the best education made possible by our resources. We should look forward to a time when we can accept all applicants able to absorb instruction at a high university level. We must keep the University within the financial reach of low and moderate income families.

One of the best aspects of the State university is that it brings together on one campus students who are majoring in liberal arts and science, agriculture and forestry, home economics and engineering. We bring together students of different interests and backgrounds, and we have a core curriculum designed to give all of them a first-rate general education, as well as to equip them for specialized professions such as teaching, farming, journalism, landscape architecture, business and accounting, food technology, public health work, civil and electrical and mechanical and chemical engineering, and the various scientific fields, such as physics, biology, chemistry and geology.

We are a small university, but we have the varied aspects and the potentialities for becoming a university great in the quality of its work.

I concluded my first annual report last year by mentioning the fundamental importance of teaching and research. After the present emergency is over teaching loads should be lightened to provide time for a better program of research and scholarship, for the value of such work in itself and to enrich our teaching program. During the coming year time will be limited, but we must hold fast to our goal of developing a well-rounded university that can meet fully the more important needs of the people of the Commonwealth.

R. A. VAN METER,

January 19, 1949.

President

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS ENROLLMENT

October 1948

UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE AT AMHERST

SCHOOL	1949		1950		1951		1952		Total		
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Total
Liberal Arts	121	75	236	41	57	55	59	87	474	258	732
Science	115	38	191	33	73	36	74	48	453	155	608
Engineering	21	0	295	0	35	0	54	0	405	0	405
Horticulture	47	5	114	2	42	6	29	3	232	16	248
Business											
Administration	19	0	140	1	36	5	30	7	225	13	238
Agriculture	34	0	64	3	50	1	39	0	187	4	191
Home Economics	0	26	0	31	0	42	0	36	0	135	135
Division of											
Physical											
Education	6	0	22	0	9	0	5	0	42	0	42
Specials									5	8	13
TOTAL	364	144	1062	111	302	145	290	181	2023	589	2612

GRADUATE SCHOOL (October 1948)

Men	Women	Total
173	48	221

STOCKBRIDGE SCHOOL (October 1948)

1949		1950		Total
Men	Women	Men	Women	
176	3	229	4	412

SUMMARY (October 1948)

Undergraduate College at Amherst	2612
Undergraduate College at Devens	813
Stockbridge School	412
Graduate School	221
TOTAL	4058

Office of Publications, October, 1948

MAJOR BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED AT THE UNIVERSITY — 1929-1949

<u>NAME</u>	<u>COMPLETED</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>FEDERAL</u>	<u>PRIVATE</u> (Gifts or Alumni Corp.)
Food Technology	1929	\$70,000		
Depression and War Years (1929-1946)				
Physical Education Bldg.	1931	\$172,500		\$115,000
Thatcher House	1935	\$116,370	\$77,580	
Goodell Library	1935	\$143,100	\$95,400	
Lewis House	1940			\$177,000
Butterfield House	1941			\$232,600
Post-War Building Starting 1946				
Federal & Commonwealth Circles, 18 Temporary Buildings	1946	\$40,000	\$200,000 (Est.)	
Chadbourne House				
Greenough House	1947			\$550,000
Wooden Classroom and Laboratory and Dining Hall Annex Buildings	1947	\$25,000	\$400,000 (Est.)	
Home Economics Building Authorized 1946	1948	\$643,750		
Physics Building Authorized 1946				
Re-authorized 1947	May 1949	\$518,000		
Animal Pathology Bldg. Authorized 1946				
Re-authorized 1947		\$518,000		
Waltham Field Station Authorized 1946				
Re-authorized 1947		\$275,000		
Mills House Authorized 1946	Feb. 1949			\$400,000
3 Cement-Block Dormitories Authorized 1947	1948	\$522,000		
Gunness Laboratory Authorized 1947	June 1949	\$424,000		
Engineering Annex Authorized 1947	1948	\$120,000		
Boiler and Laboratory Equipment for New Bldgs. (2 Special Appropriations, 1947)		\$162,500		
Dutch Elm Laboratory Authorized 1948	Feb. 1949	\$24,500		
2 Cement-Block Dormitories Authorized 1948	Feb. 1949	\$350,000		
6th, 7th and 8th Alumni Dormitories Authorized 1948				\$1,000,000
Faculty-Student Apartment Bldg. Authorized 1948				\$500,000
Power Plant and Utility Lines Authorized 1948		\$1,361,000		
Wing of Main Engineering Bldg. Authorized 1948		\$500,000		
20-YEAR TOTAL		\$5,985,720	\$772,980	\$2,974,600

Office of Publications, February 1, 1949

